

# Farm Service Agency

**Address:**

USDA Service Center  
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**Web Sites:**

FSA: [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov)  
USDA: [www.usda.gov](http://www.usda.gov)  
Farm Bill:  
[www.usda.gov.farmbill](http://www.usda.gov.farmbill)

**Hours:**

Monday-Friday  
8:00 AM-4:30 PM

**County Committee:**

Paul Johnson  
Richard Manassero  
Terry Munz  
Patricia Van Dam

**Advisor:**

Bennie Moore, Jr.

**County Executive****Director:**

Douglas Brand

**Staff:**

Marilynn Wells, PT  
Holleen Self, PT

**IN THIS ISSUE:**

- Disaster Programs Extended
- DDAP-III
- NAP Reporting
- COC Election Results
- New USDA Secretary of Agriculture
- Honey Loans Available
- NASS Statistical Survey
- Kansas City Mails 1099-G
- Yearly Reminders

***Los Angeles-Orange-San Bernardino Counties***

## ***FSA NEWS***

***February 2008***

***Newsletter 1***

### ***Disaster Programs Eligibility Date Extended***

As a result of a recent extension, now all 2007 livestock and crop year losses may be eligible for the 2005 through 2007 disaster programs.

On December 26, 2007, President Bush signed the Department of State, Foreign Operations and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 2008 (2008 Act). The 2008 Act amended the previous February 28, 2007 date and now allows for crops planted prior to December 31, 2007, for the 2007 crop year, to be included for loss purposes under Crop Disaster Program (CDP). Similarly, under Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) and Livestock Compensation Program (LCP), the 2008 Act extends the date livestock and livestock feed/grazing losses could have occurred in a primary or contiguous county named in a Secretarial or Presidential disaster declaration to December 31, 2007.

CDP now provides benefits to farmers who suffered quantity and quality losses to 2005, 2006, or 2007 crops from natural disasters if the crop was planted before December 31, 2007. This date change does not make 2008 crops planted in 2007 eligible, however it does benefit farmers in that it extends the eligibility date for crops planted in 2007 that were intended for harvest in the same crop year.

Only producers who obtained crop insurance coverage or coverage under the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program for the year of loss will be eligible for CDP benefits. Producers must have suffered quantity losses in excess of 35%.

LIP now compensates livestock producers for livestock losses between January 1, 2005, and December 31, 2007, that resulted from natural disasters. Producers in primary counties declared secretarial disaster areas or certain counties declared presidential disaster areas between January 1, 2005, and December 31, 2007, are eligible as are producers located in counties contiguous to those counties.

To be eligible for LIP, a livestock producer must have legally owned the eligible livestock on the day the livestock died. The livestock must have died in an eligible county as a result of an eligible disaster event. The livestock must not have been produced for reasons other than commercial farming.

LCP now compensates livestock producers for feed losses on non-irrigated grazing land resulting from natural disasters occurring between January 1, 2005, and December 31, 2007. Livestock producers may elect to receive compensation for grazing and feed losses caused by drought conditions that occurred during calendar year 2007 as determined by the Secretary of Agriculture.

***Continue to page 2 – Disaster Programs Extended***

### *Continued from page 1 – Disaster Programs Extended*

Producers incurring a loss in more than one of the 2005, 2006, or 2007 calendar years must choose only one year for which they want to receive CDP, LIP, or LCP benefits.

Sign-up for LIP and LCP began on September 10, 2007. Sign-up for the CDP began October 15, 2007, and applies to farmers who suffered quantity losses to their crops. Ending dates for the sign-up period have not yet been determined.

For more information about LCP, LIP and CDP, contact our FSA Office or go online at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov>; under “Disaster Assistance Programs.

### ***Dairy Disaster Assistance Payment (DDAP-III) Program***

The Dairy Disaster Assistance Payment (DDAP-III) Program, which provides benefits to eligible dairy producers for production losses suffered as a result of natural disasters since January 1, 2005, has also been extended to include disasters occurring before December 31, 2007.

As a result, DDAP-III sign-up, which began December 3, 2007, has been temporarily suspended until such time as automation, policy, procedure and other administrative items can be updated accordingly. FSA will announce when DDAP-III program signup will resume.

If you are a dairy producer considering sign up for the Dairy Disaster Program, check with your nearest Service Center office for resumption of sign up. Or you can visit the website [www.fsa.usda.gov/ca](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/ca) where the DDAP III sign up resumption announcement will be posted.

### ***NAP Production Reporting***

Production records for individual crops need to be filed with our office to establish an approved NAP yield. If this is the first year you participated in NAP, you can provide production and acreage information from prior years to establish your yield. If you participated in NAP in previous years, you must report your production and acreage on a yearly basis to keep your yield up-to-date. Records submitted must be reliable and verifiable. Records need to show crop disposition. We recommend producers submit 2007 production records as soon as harvest is complete. ***All production records must be submitted by the subsequent crop year's final acreage reporting date.***

### ***County Committee Election Results***

Congratulations to **Paul Johnson** who was recently elected to serve on the Los Angeles-Orange-San Bernardino County FSA Committee. Paul Johnson was elected to serve as a representative for the high desert area of San Bernardino County (LAA-1).

A special thanks goes out to **Susan Harter** for three years of service as a County Committee member. Susan Harter provided invaluable service as a County Committee member and showed commitment and dedication to the farmers she served. Susan Harter will still serve as the 1<sup>st</sup> alternate in LAA-1.

Our FSA Office appreciates all of the voters for taking the time to complete the election ballot. The county committee system works only because of your participation.

### ***New USDA Secretary of Agriculture***

**Ed Schafer** was sworn in as the 29th Secretary of the U.S. Department of Agriculture on January 28, 2008. Secretary Schafer brings a record as an innovative two-term governor of North Dakota to USDA along with extensive private sector experience as both an entrepreneur and a business executive. For Secretary Schafer's complete background, visit “About USDA” at [www.usda.gov](http://www.usda.gov).

### ***Honey Loans Available***

Marketing assistance loans and loan deficiency payments (LDP) for 2007 crop year honey are available until March 31, 2008. The national loan rate for honey is \$0.60 per pound. Current market prices exceed the loan rate, so LDPs are not available at this time.

To be eligible for a loan, the producer must have: (1) produced honey in the United States during the calendar year for which the loan is requested, and extracted the honey on or before December 31 of the applicable crop year; (2) have continuous beneficial interest in the honey through date of repayment of the loan; (3) and been responsible for the financial risk of keeping the honey. Producers are responsible for maintaining the quality of farm-stored honey during the term of the loan.

The honey must be produced in the U.S. by an eligible producer, from an approved floral source, and stored in approved containers. Pre-loan inspections are required before funds can be disbursed. Honey used as collateral may not be disposed of without approval of the county office staff.

## ***NASS Statistical Surveys***

### ***Have you been asked to participate in a survey with USDA's Agriculture Statistics Service?***

The Quarterly Agricultural Surveys, conducted by the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) provide inventory and production estimates for crops and livestock at state and national levels. Each quarter a list sample of farm operators are contacted by mail, telephone or personal interview for inventory information on the land they operate. Sample segments are also screened for farm operators.

### ***Why is it important for producers to participate in these surveys? Because...***

Statistical information on acreage, production, stocks, prices, and income is essential for the smooth operation of Federal farm programs. It is also indispensable for planning and administering related Federal and State programs in such areas as consumer protection, conservation and environmental quality, trade, education, and recreation.

Moreover, the regular updating of information helps to ensure an orderly flow of goods and services among agriculture's producing, processing, and marketing sectors. Reliable, timely, and detailed crop and livestock statistics help to maintain a stable economic climate and minimize the uncertainties and risks associated with the production, marketing, and distribution of commodities.

## ***Kansas City Mails 1099-G***

During the last week of January, producers who have received payments from FSA should have also received a CCC-1099-G from the Kansas City office. A CCC-1099-G is a report to the Internal Revenue Service about FSA payments made to you in calendar year 2007. The CCC-1099-G is a service to help participating producers report taxable income. It is not intended to replace the program participant's responsibility to report income to the IRS.

If you received a CCC-1099-G, we recommend that you check the amounts shown with those in your records to see that the amounts are correct. Refunds will no longer be reported on the 1099-G, but will be available online from the FSA Financial Inquiries (FSA-FI) web-based database. Program participants with eAuthentication user ID's and passwords can access their refund information at FSA-FI and select "Inquiry Type 1099/Refund Reports". Refund amounts are displayed on the Producer's Year-to-Date Activity web page.

If you have a question concerning the 1099-G refund information, you may contact your local FSA office for assistance locating the correct payment data.

## ***Conservation Compliance***

All participants in USDA programs are required to have a conservation system in place on all the highly erodible land (HEL) that they operate. Several areas where problems can arise with complying with a conservation system are; renting new cropland, purchasing new land, breaking out additional cropland, planting different crops such as soybeans, and changing or removing existing conservation practices.

It is very important that you contact the FSA office before doing any of the above. Also, it is very important that you contact our office before modifying - tiling, draining, dredging, filling, or leveling - any wetland or drainage ditch. Failure to obtain advance approval for any of these situations can result in loss of all Federal payments and eligibility.

## ***REPORTING FARM INFORMATION CHANGES***

It is the producer's responsibility to report their farm operation completely and accurately. It is also the producer's responsibility to notify FSA of any changes in their farming operation or entity status throughout the year. Changes that may affect a determination include, but are not limited to: a change in contract shares of a contract; change of land lease from cash rent to share rent or from share rent to cash rent; a change in the size or structure of the producer's farming operation; change in the member's shares; and a change in the contributions of farm inputs of capital, equipment, active personal labor, or active personal management.

## ***FOREIGN LANDOWNER NOTIFICATION***

The Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act requires all foreign owners of U.S. agricultural land to report their holdings to the Secretary of Agriculture.

Foreign investors who buy, sell or hold a direct or indirect interest in U.S. agricultural land must report their holdings and transactions to the FSA within 90 days of the closing. Failure to timely file an accurate report can result in a penalty with fines up to 25 percent of the fair market value of the agricultural land. County government offices, Realtors, attorneys, and others involved in real estate transactions are reminded to notify foreign investors of these reporting requirements.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
Farm Service Agency  
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### **SPECIAL ACCOMODATIONS**

Special accommodations will be made, upon request, for individuals with disabilities, vision impaired, or hearing impairment. If accommodations are required, please call our office at (661) 942-9549.

### **CIVIL RIGHTS COMPLAINT PROCESS**

Any person, class or group of persons may file a discrimination complaint within 180 days of an alleged discriminatory action. Complaints may be filed in writing or orally with the agency head, any designated agency official or the Secretary of Agriculture, USDA, Washington, D.C. 20250. Assistance in filing a complaint can be obtained by calling or visiting any FSA office.

*The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance programs. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at 202-720-2600 (voice and TDD).*

*To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202)-720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.*